



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

San Diego Region

Winston H. Hickox
Secretary for
Environmental
Protection

Internet Address: <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/~rwqcb9/>
9771 Clairemont Mesa Boulevard, Suite A, San Diego, California 92124-1324
Phone (858) 467-2952 • FAX (858) 571-6972



Gray Davis
Governor

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Mailing List

SAN DIEGO REGION ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (Regional Board), proposes to establish a procedure to facilitate evaluation and acceptance of Supplemental Environmental Projects (SE Projects) proposed to offset liability proposed or assessed by the Regional Board for violations of orders, requirements or prohibitions. In addition, other environmental assessment, protection, restoration, or enhancement projects may be suitable for funding from the State Water Pollution Cleanup and Abatement Account at the request of the Regional Board.

Therefore, this letter is provided to define SE Projects, promulgate criteria for acceptance of SE Projects and other environmental projects by the Regional Board, and to establish the process by which the Regional Board will consider projects for review, approval, and subsequent selection for funding and implementation.

A. Supplemental Environmental Project Definition

SE Projects are projects that will contribute to the enhancement, protection or restoration of water quality and beneficial uses of water in the San Diego Region. Projects are considered to be "supplemental" in that the project does not qualify to be funded and implemented through an existing program and does not involve an existing obligation created by any order or prohibition issued by the Regional Board. Several state and federal programs provide funding for environmental projects related to water quality. Projects that do not qualify for, or are denied, funding under these programs may be submitted as supplemental projects. Projects funded by these programs cannot be accepted as "supplemental" projects. However, projects that qualify for these programs are not funded due to lack of funds may be accepted as "supplemental" projects.

Current programs that can provide funding for environmental projects associated with water quality include the following:

1. Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 205(j); grants for environmental studies and the development of watershed management plans
2. Federal CWA 319(h); grants for implementation of non-point source best management practices
3. State Revolving Fund; loans for water utility infrastructure projects and non-point source control and treatment projects

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4. The Southern California Wetlands Restoration Program
5. Proposition 12 (March, 2000) State Parks Bond
6. Proposition 13 (March, 2000) Water Bond
7. Ongoing Regional Board and SWRCB funding for out-reach, education and research.

Each project must meet the following criteria:

1. The work involved will lead to improved water quality and support of beneficial uses of waters within the San Diego Region. The project will indicate the watershed(s) and specific water body included in the proposal.
2. The proposal should have a well defined scope of work, an estimate of the life-cycle costs and a stated duration and it should have clearly defined goals, and objectives and include methods to determine the effectiveness of the project after completion.
3. The proposal should include documented support by other resource agencies, public groups and impacted persons and when appropriate, include environmental impact documentation such as a CEQA document if required.
4. The project should not in any way consist of any pre-existing regulatory requirement of the Regional Board.
5. The proposal must include designation of a Project Trustee who will be acceptable to the Regional Board to provide oversight of funds and accountability for project accomplishment on the behalf of the Regional Board. The Project Trustee will be required to frequently report progress to the Regional Board including participation at public meetings.

B. Project Submission Criteria and Instructions

Projects sent to the Regional Board will be submitted by means of the attached form. Each proposal will be reviewed and retained on a list that will be updated each year in July. The project list will have five categories as follows:

1. Projects that are primarily intended to **monitor water quality** in ambient waters.



2. Projects that will accomplish **restoration of wetlands or riparian habitat** including clean up of waste materials, dredging to reestablish natural depths, and the removal of invasive vegetation or the restoration of native vegetation.
3. Proposals may constitute a **donation to an endowment** for a water quality related activity in a specific lagoon, estuary, river or creek within the Region.
4. Projects that serve to **abate non-point source pollution**.
5. Proposals that provide **public outreach, education or scientific research** to support the mission of the Regional Board.

C. Regional Board Review, Approval, Funding and Implementation

The Regional Board will continuously receive, review and when appropriate, approve projects for inclusion in the list to be retained by the Regional Board. Periodically, with an agenda item included in regularly scheduled board meetings, the Regional Board will consider SE Projects for funding and implementation. This may be done in conjunction with assessment of civil liability or independently of other issues before the Board.

SE Projects accepted by the Regional Board in conjunction with the assessment of civil liability must satisfy the provisions of Section IV, Part D of the State Water Resources Control Board **Water Quality Enforcement Policy** (Resolution NO. 96-030 as amended).

The status of Environmental Projects funded and implemented by the Regional Board will be reported by the Executive Officer in the monthly Executive Officer's Report and on the Regional Board Website. For additional information on the SE Projects within the San Diego Region please contact Rebecca Stewart in our Compliance Assurance Unit, at 858-467-2966.

Sincerely,

John H. Robertus
Executive Officer
San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Attachment – SE Projects Submission Form

